MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
APRIL 13, 2021
DRAFT

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:35 P.M.

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of Health was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to both the *Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record* on January 14, 2021; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 14, 2021; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 14, 2021.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Nikolopoulos, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present.

Ms. Taormina was absent

All participation in this meeting was via Zoom.

Minutes

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reports

Annual Report

Mrs. Plantemoli reviewed with the Board the Annual Report that was presented to the Township Committee on April 8th. The report provided an introduction of the Board of Health membership. Mrs. Plantemoli discussed the response to COVID-19. She also discussed the statistics for March 5, 2021 to April 5, 2021. Mrs. Plantemoli also discussed the age group percentages of COVID cases by quarter. She also discussed the work performed by Mrs. Dolan to respond to COVID and praised her efforts and dedication.

Mrs. Dolan commented that there are many former COVID patients who have still not fully recovered. She also commented on other reportable diseases and said that a staff member assisted her in collecting that data.

Mrs. Plantemoli also noted that two flu clinics were able to be conducted in 2020. Mrs. Dolan said that some health departments had stopped doing flu clinics during the COVID pandemic. She also commented on the availability of flu vaccines to the uninsured and underinsured. There was a pause in the Madison Health Department's flu vaccines when they were overwhelmed with COVID issues.

Mrs. Dolan commented on the COVID vaccine program for homebound residents. She said the plan was to administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is now on pause.

Mrs. Plantemoli said that the Annual Report noted that there were lead exposure investigations, retail food inspections, pool inspections and nuisance investigations. Mrs. Plantemoli noted that the issue of leaf blower noise was discussed. In 2020 there were two septic applications and one well permit application.

Mrs. Plantemoli also reported that the following recommendations were presented:

- To continue to provide cost-effective public health services and environmental health services to our community as required by the state.

- To continue to be a resource to our community regarding public health issues, such as Covid-19 Management.
- To continue to provide public health education and resources to the community as needed.
- To continue to work with the other municipal committees and groups in providing public health services and expertise, ie: OEM, Chatham Township Committee.

Mr. Nikolopoulos suggested that the slideshow be posted on the Township website.

Public Health Nurse

Mrs. Dolan elaborated on the homebound vaccination program. She said that it is unknown if an alternate vaccine will be used. Efforts are being made to correctly identify eligible homebound residents. Mrs. Dolan also said that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been paused because while only 6 people have had adverse reactions, it was thought that it would be negligent if more study was not conducted.

Mrs. Dolan said that on April 2nd there were updates to CDC travel guidelines. There are no longer quarantine requirements for domestic travel for those who are fully vaccinated. Those who are fully vaccinated and are exposed to COVID also do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

Mrs. Dolan also praised the work performed by school nurses. Mrs. Dolan further reported on the school immunization audit process.

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported he and Mrs. Dolan both deal with answering questions on CDC guidance and the updates thereto. Mr. Fitzpatrick also reported that the number of COVID cases among those who are under 18 years old are increasing. He said that having fresh air circulating will help prevent transmission, and vaccinations are encouraged. Mr. Fitzpatrick also commented on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and opined that it will likely be found to be safe.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about a retail food establishment that received a conditional approval. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that when there is a conditional approval, the establishment is informed of what needs to be rectified and how to do so. He also said that re-inspections usually occur two weeks later and the establishments are normally back up to code at the re-inspection.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about an abandoned septic tank inspection. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that an underground storage tank was found on a property, and upon inspection it was found to be a decommissioned septic tank. The tank was filled with gravel and capped.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in December 2020:

34 Death Certificates		$190
2 Marriage Licenses		$56
6 Marriage Certificates		$40
	Total	$286

Mr. LaConte further reported that there were four marriage licenses issued in the 1st Quarter of 2021, and a $100 check was issued to the State of New Jersey to cover the State's portion of the marriage license fees.

Mr. LaConte further reminded the Board Members to file their Financial Disclosure Statements by April 30th.

Mr. LaConte also noted that the June 8th meeting will need to be rescheduled because that is the same date as the Primary Election.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to accept the reports. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion.

Meeting Open to Public

Mrs. Plantemoli opened the meeting to the public.
Seeing no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary